



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	CP&P	Child Protection and Permanency	Effective
Volume:	IV	Out of Home Placement	Date:3-2-2009
Chapter:	A	General Placement Considerations	Revised Date:
Subchapter:	2	Child Safety/Safety Assessments	11.18.2020
Issuance:	300	Safety Protection Plan	

Purpose:

This issuance establishes the policy and procedures for developing a Safety Protection Plan when children are in placement.

Policy:

A) Determine the Placement Outcome

If one of the safety factors (on CP&P Form [22-6](#)) is marked "yes," the CP&P-placed child shall be considered "unsafe" (i.e., in immediate or impending danger of serious harm) in the resource family home.

The person(s) conducting the assessment shall immediately contact his or her Supervisor from the field to conference the matter. If the assigned Supervisor is unavailable/cannot be reached, the Worker/RFSW speaks with another field Supervisor or directly consults the Casework Supervisor.

The person(s) conducting the assessment and his or her Supervisor conference the case to confirm the child is unsafe, and, if so, to determine:

1. Whether to make efforts to keep the child in the home under a Safety Protection Plan, or
2. Whether to remove and re-place the child in an alternative resource home, (particularly if the child has a limited relationship with the resource parents and other members of the household.)

A safety concern for one CP&P placed child triggers the need to discuss the safety and well-being of each child placed by CP&P in that home. Individual Safety Protection Plans may be warranted for each child placed in the home by CP&P.

If there are concerns about birth, adopted, or other children residing in the home, plans for ensuring their safety shall likewise be made. If any child is removed, and other children remain in the home, a Safety Protection Plan shall be developed to assure his or her safety.

The Supervisor consults the Casework Supervisor or other managerial or resource staff, if appropriate, to help with developing a viable plan.

B) Craft Each Plan Individually

The person(s) conducting the assessment shall take necessary steps to effectuate the Safety Protection Plan. The Safety Protection Plan shall be implemented promptly before the CP&P representative(s) leaves the home. The person(s) conducting the assessment gives a signed copy of the Safety Protection Plan to the resource parent before leaving the home.

The Safety Plan shall be individually crafted for the identified child where safety factors were identified.

Procedures:

1) Developing a Safety Protection Plan

The Worker or RFSW develops a Safety Protection Plan, to assure the immediate care and safety of the CP&P placed child, if any child is to remain in placement. Base the plan on the specific safety factor(s) found, the household dynamics, inter-relationships, and the child's immediate circumstances.

2) Notifications by Supervisor When the Child is "Unsafe"

When a safety concern(s) is identified in a resource family home, the assigned Supervisor takes the following actions:

- a. Conferences the case with the person(s) conducting the assessment (who is calling from the field), to develop a Safety Protection Plan or a plan to remove and replace the child.
- b. Immediately notifies the Casework Supervisor, Local Office Manager, IAIU, OOL and RFSU staff,
- c. Notifies each field unit Supervisor who supervises a child placed in the home.

Consult the DCF Interstate Services Unit if the home is located out of state:

- a. CP&P, the Interstate Services Unit, and the host state CPS agency consult, as necessary, to determine whether the child can remain in the resource family home under a Safety Protection Plan, and, if so, how the plan is to be implemented and monitored; or
- b. Plans may need to be made to remove the child and return him or her to the State of New Jersey.

2) Developing an individually crafted plan

To develop the Safety Protection Plan, the CP&P representative, Supervisor, and Casework Supervisor, when appropriate CP&P staff:

- a. Identifies the safety factor(s) that applies (i.e., determine what is making the child “unsafe”), and specifies exactly:
 - i. What the danger to the child is,
 - ii. Who, or what, is the source of danger,
 - iii. What action, inaction, or behavior is causing danger,
 - iv. Which child is endangered;
- b. Clearly states the specific action(s) that was taken during the home visit;
- c. Clearly states the action that are needed after the conclusion of the field visit, specifying:
 - i. How to appease the identified safety factor(s),
 - ii. Date specified action(s) to be completed,
 - iii. Service needs identified by the resource family and child;
- d. Identifies the responsible party for implementing the plan, specifying:
 - i. How to verify that the safety action(s) is in place,
 - ii. Who, in CP&P or others (e.g., service providers), are responsible for carrying out the Safety Protection Plan,
 - iii. How often the child or home needs to be visited to assure the plan is being followed, and the date of the next visit to the home,
 - iv. How progress is to be tracked and monitored until safety is restored,
 - v. How the Safety Protection Plan will be evaluated, to assure it is effective in protecting the child and keeping the child safe.

Each resource parent and each CP&P representative on the scene signs the Safety Protection Plan. If it is not possible to develop a viable Safety Protection Plan, the child is removed and re-placed to assure his or her, safety.

4. Resource Parent Refuses to Sign

If the resource parent refuses to sign the plan, the CP&P representative advises his or her Supervisor, to determine:

- a. If the resource parent will comply with the plan but is refusing to sign it;
- b. If the resource parent will sign the plan while the other resource parent refuses to sign, and how the child will be impacted by this impasse; or
- c. If the resource parent will not sign the plan because he or she does not agree with the plan and will not comply with it.

The Worker, RFSW, and Supervisor determine, together, if the refusal to sign is a reason to remove the child.

Forms and Attachments:

- CP&P Form [22-5](#), New Jersey Child Safety Assessment in Resource Family Homes - Cover Sheet
- CP&P Form [22-6](#), New Jersey Child Safety Assessment (Resource Homes)
- Contact Activity Note (printable as CP&P Form [26-52](#), Contact Sheet)

Other Relevant Forms

- CP&P Form [5-5](#), Resource Family Parent Agreement

Related Information:

- [CP&P-III-C-3-200](#), Supervision and Contacts During Placement
- [CP&P-IV-B-2-100](#), Number of Children in a Resource Home
- [CP&P-IV-B-6-400](#), Foster Parent's Employment and Supervision or Child Care for the Foster Child